

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

March 27, 2012

One of the many challenges that County residents face today is the high cost of prescription drugs. Unfortunately, the ever-increasing cost of medications along with a difficult economy will impact more and more of our residents. My office has received numerous constituent inquiries asking if the County can assist them. But unless they are a patient at one of our County facilities or seen by one of our community partners, there is little the County has in place to assist them. It doesn't have to be that way.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), a non-profit entity representing state county governments, has a program to assist residents in obtaining significant discounts, some according to CSAC as much as 75% on brand name and generic medications. As a member of CSAC, the County is eligible to participate in this program at no cost to the County or the residents that voluntarily choose to participate in this program. I want to emphasize that this is a voluntary program for County residents and it would be up to each individual resident to determine if it is in their best interest to participate in this program. The marketing, administration, and distribution of the discount cards are conducted by CSAC or its designee, again at no cost to the County.

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What does the County have to do to participate? Simply contact CSAC and notify them of our interest to make their discount program available to Los Angeles County residents. Nineteen counties in California have already taken advantage of CSAC's program. We should too.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to contact CSAC and inform them of our willingness to participate in their discount prescription program. The CEO is also to make it clear to CSAC that the County's participation is on the basis that there is no fee to residents participating in this program, that their privacy will be protected, and that any marketing, administration, and distribution of the cards will be done solely by CSAC or their designee at no cost to the County.

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